

Application No. 10/688,101
Amendment Dated May 16, 2006
Reply to Office Action of February 23, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

By this Amendment, claims 1, 6, 12-13 and 17-18 are amended, and claims 5 and 16 are canceled. Claims 1-4, 6-15 and 17-20 are pending.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the statement at page 7 of the Office Action that claims 5-8 and 16-18 recite allowable subject matter. Accordingly, the limitations of claims 5 and 16 are incorporated into claims 1 and 12, respectively, the independent claims from which they ultimately depend. Claims 5 and 16 are canceled and claims 6, 13 and 17-18 are amended accordingly.

Applicants respectfully submit that the foregoing amendments obviate all pending rejections and place the application in immediately condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for initial examination and allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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May 16, 2006

Please charge or credit our
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consideration of this submission.